

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI  
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90100-10032  
  
RECORD SERIES : HQ  
  
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 52-72398-73

Released under the John  
F. Kennedy  
Assassination Records  
Collection Act of 1992  
(44 USC 2107 Note).  
Case#:NW 54027 Date:  
08-25-2017

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI  
FROM : CV  
TO : HQ

TITLE :

DATE : 12/02/1958  
PAGES : 3

SUBJECTS :

JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA  
THEFT OF 318 WEAPONS, 16 BLANKETS, ONE CARBINE  
RANK, OHIO NA

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT  
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified  
RESTRICTIONS : 4  
CURRENT STATUS : Redact  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 07/29/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE

COMMENTS : AT

FBI

Date: 12-2-58

## PLAIN TEXT

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTELAIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM: SAC, CLEVELAND (52-1918)

UNSUBS; Theft of 317 Weapons,  
 16 Blankets, 1 Carbine Rack  
 from Ohio National Guard Armory,  
 Canton, Ohio, on 10-14-58;  
STUART SUTOR  
 TGP, ITSP, FFA, NEUTRALITY MATTERS  
 Re NY airtel to Bureau, 11-10-58.

Capt. FRANK BURNOSKY, Chief of Detectives, Canton, O. PD advised on 11-24-58, that the individual who would most closely fit the description of "a well known safe cracker in Canton who specializes in burglarizing safes in private homes" would be GEORGE MIKE FLOREA, FBI #2888609. Associates of FLOREA are GEORGE VICTOR ZUGRAVE, FBI #2878523, and SAMUEL JOSEPH MESSARIS, FBI #840808, known burglars in the Canton area.

BURNOSKY stated an informant of his dept. stated that FLOREA was involved in instant theft and that FLOREA's Cadillac and a Chrysler were used in the burglary in addition to a rented truck.

Reairtel advised that LOUIS MARTINEZ had made a telephone call from the Manhattan Hotel, NY on 9-19-58, to Canton GL 4-0532 which is listed to the Varsity Restaurant, Canton, a hangout for FLOREA and local hoodlums.

PCI, JOHN APOSTOLOS advised SA JAMES E. GILLEY on 11-17-58, that he had seen GEORGE FLOREA and LOUIS MARTINEZ together several times in Canton during the past few months or so, he could not recall the exact dates. He never heard either of them

7 DEC 10 1958

- 3 - Bureau
- 2 - New York (52-5814)
- 2 - Pittsburgh (enc1. #4) RCP
- 1 - Philadelphia (info)

F - Cleveland

HEW:tmr

Approved:

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M - P.M.

REC-27

52-72398-7

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Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

CV 52-1918

discuss the theft of weapons at the ONG Armory at Canton. PCI could not recall MARTINEZ calling the Varsity Restaurant in 9-58, from NY, however, a couple days before MARTINEZ was arrested in NY for kidnapping, MARTINEZ telephoned the Varsity Restaurant and asked to talk to ALEX KARRAS, the bartender, who takes messages for FLOREA and MESSARIS when they are not there. KARRAS is a loyal member of the gang and cannot be trusted according to PCI. KARRAS later mentioned that MARTINEZ wanted money when he called and it was his opinion that the money was requested of FLOREA.

PCI stated that FLOREA has not been around for several weeks and was working with PHIL MAINER at Calumet City, Ill. FLOREA gave a telephone number of TO 2-9628 where he could be reached, which is probably the "Riptide" bar in that city. MAINER is from the Youngstown, O. area and a known hoodlum.

FLOREA is a suspect in the case entitled, UNSUBS (3), JOHN NICHOLAS NUZZO, Jr., wa., Don Myers - FUG; Theft of 22,313 Shares Class A. Common Stock, American Petrofina, Inc. valued at \$245,443, 5-17-58, Lancaster, Pa., DONALD M. MYERS - VICTIM, ITSP - MAYOR THEFT, CV file 87-4723, OO: PH.

Capt. FRANK BURNOSKY, Canton PD advised on 11-28-58, that his previously mentioned informant (believed to be identical with PCI JOHN APOSTOLOS) stated that some time ago LOUIS MARTINEZ talked to ALEX KARRAS, a bartender at the Varsity Restaurant, Canton, and that KARRAS then put MARTINEZ in touch with GEORGE FLOREA. Shortly thereafter FLOREA was seen with VINCENT INNOCENZI, CV PD # 71173, and RICHARD ALEX STEWART, CV PD # 89173, CV hoodlums and one JOE BAGGY. The four left the restaurant and entered a Chrysler year and license registration unknown which was supposed to have been borrowed.

2

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent: \_\_\_\_\_ M Per: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

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Date:

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CV 52-1918

MAINER reported to have connections around New Kensington, Pa. according to PCI MARIO GUERRIERI.

Enclosed for PG are photos of FLOREA, ZUGRAVE, MESSARIS and MAINER.

PG is requested to ascertain what connections MAINER has in the New Kensington area and his possible involvement in instant theft. Investigation at CV continuing re FLOREA.

MURPHY.

- 3 -

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent: \_\_\_\_\_ M Per: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge